

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, after the title, insert the following:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is the U.S. national phase of PCT Appln. No. PCT/EP2005/002542 filed March 10, 2005, which claims priority to German application 10 2004 014 684.5 filed March 25, 2004.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention**

On page 1, before the paragraph beginning on line 9, please add the following:

2. Description of the Related Art

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, line 9 as shown below:

Free-radically curable coating compositions which comprise nanoscale fillers surface-modified with organic radicals and which cure to coatings of high mechanical hardness and chemical resistance are known. With coating compositions of this kind an appropriate modification of the particle surface ensures compatibility of the particle with the surrounding polymer matrix. Where the particle surface possesses, moreover, a suitable reactivity for the matrix, so that it is able to react with the binder system under the particular curing conditions of the coating system, it is possible to incorporate the particles chemically into the matrix in the course of curing, which frequently has a ~~frequently~~ positive effect on the profile of properties of the composite system.

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, line 23 as shown below:

Free-radically curable, particle-reinforced coating compositions are described *inter alia* in US 4455205 A and US 4491508 A and are obtained, ~~by~~ for example, by reacting colloidal silicon dioxide with 3-methacryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane and subsequently exchanging the aqueous and/or alcoholic solvent for a free-radically crosslinkable organic binder. Coating compositions of this kind can be used for coating thermoplastic substrates.

Please amend the paragraph on page 2, line 21 as shown below:

Where di- or trialkoxysilanes are used for surface functionalization, a siloxane shell is formed around the particles in the presence of water, after the hydrolysis and condensation of the silanols obtained. Macromol. Chem. Phys. 2003, 204, 375-383 describes the formation of a siloxane shell of this kind around an SiO₂ particle. A problem here can be the fact that the siloxane shell that is formed still possesses a large number of SiOH functions on the surface. The stability of SiOH-functional particles of this kind is often restricted ~~if appropriate~~ under the conditions of preparation and storage, even in the presence of the binder. There may be aggregation and agglomeration of the particles for example. The associated restricted stability of the dispersions makes it more difficult to produce materials having reproducible properties. Moreover, a large proportion of the reactive organic functions in the siloxane shell are sterically shielded in such a way that it is impossible for the particles to attach to the reactive binder via these functions. Ideally, however, all of the reactive organic functions attached to the particle surface ought to be available for covalent incorporation onto the matrix.

On page 3, before line 15, please insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph on page 3, line 16 as shown below:

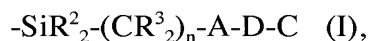
[[The]] One object on which of the present invention is based is therefore to provide that of providing a coating system which is curable with actinic radiation or thermally, which no longer has these the disadvantages of the known systems. These and other objects are achieved by providing a binder containing ethylenically unsaturated groups and particles having silicon-bonded unsaturated functionality bonded to filler particles, wherein the silicon is Si-C bonded to three organo groups.

On page 3, before line 21, please insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the paragraph on page 3, line 21 as shown below:

The invention provides curable compositions **Z** comprising a binder **BM** that carries at least one ethylenically unsaturated group and also particles **P** which possess at least one ethylenically unsaturated group on their surface and contain radicals of the general formula I,



where

- R²** is $-(\text{CR}^3_2)_n-\text{A}-\text{D}-\text{C}$ or a hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, whose carbon chain can be interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR^4 groups,
- R³** is hydrogen or hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, whose carbon chain can be interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR^4 groups,
- R⁴** is hydrogen or hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms,
- A** is oxygen, sulfur, $=\text{NR}^4$ or $=\text{N}-(\text{D}-\text{C})$,
- D** is a carbonyl group[[.]] or an alkylene, cycloalkylene or arylene radical having in each case 1 to 12 carbon atoms, it being possible for the carbon chain to be interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR^4 groups,

C is an ethylenically unsaturated group and
n is greater than or equal to 1.